

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1848.

THE YUCATAN QUESTION.

We lay before our readers the Speeches of Senators CALHOUN of South Carolina, and NILES of Connecticut, on the bill for the military occupation of Yucatan; and we shall, as soon as practicable, spread before them the Speech of Senator DAVIS, of Massachusetts.

For each of these statesmanlike Speeches we ask attentive perusal by our readers. We doubt, though the execution of the Yucatan project is suspended, whether it will not yet be attempted to be carried into effect. No more important question than this has ever been presented for the consideration of Congress. It is not perhaps pregnant with greater dangers than was the Mexican War, when it was planned; but upon the institution of that war—upon that deep-laid scheme for acquiring Mexican territory under pretences false or frivolous in comparison with the cost and calamity of war—Congress was not consulted. It is a return to the rule of the Constitution, upon which we renew our congratulations to our readers, that the President has, in the case now before us, condescended, from the height of his claims of prerogative power, to bring this matter before Congress, and thus afforded an opportunity to sift his reasoning thoroughly, and show how little of substance there is in it.

In the Speech of Mr. CALHOUN, and those other masterly Speeches to which we have referred, this task has been performed so effectually as to relieve us from any other duty in the premises than that of warning the Public that the danger is not yet over, and that it behooves every man who values what remains of the National integrity and of the original rights of the States to watch with unceasing vigilance the attempts that may be expected to be made to involve this country in the affairs, social and political, of other countries, to the utter abandonment of that policy of neutrality and non-intervention which alone, under Heaven, we owe our salvation hitherto from dissolution, from anarchy, from ultimate Military Despotism, the inevitable destiny of Republics of all times which have yielded to the promptings of ambition and the seductions of the spirit of Conquest and Dominion.

What gives particular value to this Speech of Mr. CALHOUN is the testimony afforded by him, the only living witness, as to the true ground and character of the celebrated Declaration of Mr. MONROE, to which it is now attempted to give authority as being an obligatory announcement of a Continental policy; of a sort of Omnibus Alliance, not for the defence and maintenance of the independence and integrity of the United States, but for the maintenance and defence of the territorial and political rights of more than a dozen Governments, each of which is as independent of the United States as the United States is of it. Mr. CALHOUN shows, unanswerably, as we ourselves have always heretofore maintained, that, so far from being intended as a protest against the now pretended designs of the British Government, the Declaration of President MONROE was actually the result of an understanding between him and that very Government, and intended only to affect a casual and transitory object.

GENERAL SCOTT AT HOME!

This great commander arrived on Sunday morning at his home, in the sequestered village of Elizabethtown, (New Jersey,) which for many years has been his residence when not absent on duty.

The brig *St. Petersburg*, in which the General was a passenger, arrived on Saturday night at the Quarantine. The General took a boat early on Sunday morning and proceeded to Elizabethport. His suite, consisting of Captain SCOTT, Captain WILLIAMS, and Lieutenant SCHUYLER HAMILTON, Aides-de-Camp, and Dr. TRIPPER, Surgeon of the U. S. A., went on to New York.

The opinion expressed by General SCOTT is very confident that the Treaty of Peace will be ratified. The General, as will be agreeable to the whole nation to learn, is in excellent health.

CONNECTICUT SENATORS.

The Hon. TRUMAN SMITH (now a Representative in Congress) was, on Friday week, chosen by the Legislature of his State to be a Senator of the United States for six years from the 3d day of March next, to succeed Mr. NILES.

On the same day the Hon. R. S. BALDWIN was chosen to be a Senator of the United States (in continuation of his present commission) for the residue of the term of the late Senator HUNTINGTON.

THE MADISON PAPERS.—It will be very gratifying to many of our readers to learn that the bill for the purchase of the *Madison Papers*, which some time ago passed the Senate, was on Saturday (the anniversary of the birth of the universally beloved Mrs. MADISON) taken up in the House of Representatives, and finally passed.

Information has reached this country from Prussia that Baron VON ROENNE, the former respected Minister of that Government in this country, is about to return to the United States in the same capacity, Baron VON GEROLT, the present very worthy Representative of Prussia at Washington, having been transferred to another Mission.

Hon. EDWARD STANLEY has resigned his office of Attorney General of the State of North Carolina, and accepted a nomination as Representative in the State Legislature.

Gen. CADWALLADER, lately from Mexico, arrived in Philadelphia, the place of his residence, on Friday last, and was greeted with a hearty welcome and handsome public reception from his fellow-citizens.

In regard to the rumored resignation of this gallant officer which was afloat some days ago, and which was contradicted by the Union, the New Orleans *Delta* of the 13th instant says:

"Secretary MARCY and the 'Union' may have some better mode of ascertaining a gentleman's intentions than his own avowal; but we, who set at naught the story, were compelled to take Gen. CADWALLADER's own assurance on the subject. The General's resignation was placed in the hands of General BUTLER, subject to be withdrawn in case the war should break out anew. The incessant labor and arduous services of Gen. CADWALLADER, say nothing of his private cares, entitle him to some repose."

CAPTAIN OF SLAVERS.—A late arrival at New York from Sierra Leone, Africa, reports that two Brazilian slave schooners, one with four hundred slaves on board, the other only with the crew, but fitted up for a slave, arrived at Sierra Leone the 15th April, prior to H. B. M. brig *Rapid* and *Alert*.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The deliberations of the DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION at Baltimore have resulted in the nomination of the Hon. LEWIS CASS, of Michigan, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and of Wm. O. BUTLER, of Kentucky, for Vice President. Both sets of the New York delegates withdrew from the Convention before the nomination, leaving the whole number of members voting 254, of whom Mr. CASS received, on the fourth ballot, the votes of 179, being nine more than two-thirds of the whole number present, and he was accordingly declared duly chosen. On the first balloting, the vote stood, for Mr. CASS 125 votes, for Judge LEVI WOODBURY 53, for JAMES BUCHANAN 55, for JOHN C. CALHOUN 9, for GEORGE M. DALLAS 3, and for General WORTH 6.

In nominating Mr. CASS, it must be admitted that the Convention have selected for their candidate a gentleman of talents, of respectability, and of exemplary personal character. These worthy traits, however, are woefully counterpoised by the wild and disorganizing views and principles which he has of late years avowed and advocated, and which, if they ever obtain a firm footing and ascendancy in the Councils of this Nation, will, if they do not make absolute shipwreck of this glorious Union, prove as disastrous to the hopes and objects of the venerated founders of this Government, as we trust the issue of the election will prove to the hopes of those who have placed General CASS in the field.

Whether Gen. CASS is the strongest candidate whom the Democracy could have found in its ranks, we much doubt; but the strongest, if there be a stronger, would have been equally doomed to defeat by the candidate, whoever he may be, that will be offered to the country by the WHIG CONVENTION in June; and we could have preferred, for "auld lang syne," to have had some other candidate to beat.

CONGRESS.

Neither House of Congress has done any business of much public interest during this week.

The reader may remember that last week it was ordered, in both Houses, that an adjournment should take place from Monday to Thursday. The plea for this adjournment was to have the carpets removed, and the two houses ventilated, &c. The sitting of the Baltimore Convention, of course, had nothing to do with this recess; no more, we dare say, than the Philadelphia Convention will have to do with the eclipse of Congress which is likely to happen about the seventh of June next, and also to last for a day or two.

The proceedings of the Baltimore Convention seem to have excited more interest than the sittings of the present Congress itself have hitherto done, if we except the sittings of the Senate during the secret deliberations on the Mexican Treaty. They will be found pretty much at length in the preceding columns.

NEW JERSEY.

The Whigs of New Jersey held their State Convention on Wednesday, at Trenton, to choose Delegates to Philadelphia. There was quite a full attendance and an animated canvass. Hon. Wm. A. DEXTER, of Morris county, presided, and the following Delegates were chosen to represent the State in the Whig National Convention:

Senatorial.—WILLIAM WRIGHT and JOSEPH PORTER.
1. FRANCIS L. McCULLOUGH. 4. ISAAC R. CORLEIL.
2. JOHN L. N. STRATTON. 5. Dr. T. B. GATTIER.
3. JOHN H. WAKFIELD.

SUBSTITUTES.

Senatorial.—RICHARD S. FIELD and REUBEN WILLETTTS.
1. THOMAS H. DUDLEY. 4. H. D. V. LEITCHES.
2. JOHN J. BLAIR. 5. O. S. HALSTEAD.
3. CHARLES M. HARKER.

FROM YUCATAN.

The New Orleans "Patriot" has received intelligence from Campechy to the 29th April. A letter of that date states that notwithstanding the treaty between Gov. BARBACHANO and the Indian PAT, the savages had changed that territory and taken possession of Iurbide and Cibahchen, villages twenty leagues from Campechy, which had been cowardly abandoned by the troops placed there to defend them. The savages were roaming about the neighborhood unchecked in their depredations as the soldiers had sought refuge in Campechy, and it was thought that if they approached that city the walls would be no protection to the *valiant* forces within. On the same day a vessel arrived from Belize with the intelligence that the native chief Cecilio Chi had attacked the town of Bacalar, but had encountered an obstinate resistance on the part of its inhabitants.

Accounts from Campechy to the 2d instant represent that there were twenty-eight vessels, of all nations, on the coast of Yucatan, taking off the white inhabitants, who had fled to the coast seeking for safety. These vessels were carrying the unhappy fugitives to Campechy.

RIVAL TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. F. O. J. SMITH, the President of the Boston Telegraph Company, makes the following bet through the Boston Transcript:

"I will deposit \$1,000 in the Merchants' bank of this city, against a line sum, that I have a Durham bell whose weight exceeds 2500 pounds, who will travel from Boston to New York city, with a message of one thousand words, in less time than the whole telegraphic system patented to House can convey the same message, in consecutive words, from Boston to New York; and I will furnish the wires of the New York and Boston line of telegraph free of charge to the House instruments to carry out the undertaking. The offer is accepted and the trial to be made within all the months of October and November of the present year."

"FRANCIS O. J. SMITH."

To the Transcript, Mr. Smith continues: Now, to your cheering assurance that what you stated you were not only authorized to state, but that Mr. Downing was willing to back up, viz. "Come, Mr. F. O. J. Smith, no backing out!" I in turn respond, "Come, Mr. Downing, and your confederates in Boston, and out of Boston, 'No backing out!' I renew the bet! I still put the ball against your House's boasted Patented Printing Telegraph, for one thousand fold is on a side."

May 13, 1848.

I again publicly offer it, and give Mr. Downing all of May and half of June in which to screw his friends to the point.

We have not conversed with a single Officer of high or low rank, who has recently returned from Mexico, who is not opposed to a renewal of hostilities in the interior, (in case of rejection of the treaty,) which could only be done by an extended system of operations over the whole surface of the country, attended with great risk, with a certain and heavy loss of life, and with enormous expense, and more than doubtful as to producing any favorable result.

We cannot believe that Mr. Polk favors any plan of this kind; but, should it unfortunately be otherwise, we hope Congress will decidedly oppose it, as we are perfectly willing to go before the people in November, not only on the question as to the objects of this war, but also as to the mode on which it shall in future be prosecuted.—*New Orleans Bulletin*.

GEN. SMITHS.—We announced the arrival here of this distinguished officer, on his way to Mexico, a day or two ago. Upon reaching the city he found an order requiring him to attend the court of inquiry in the case of Gen. Pillow, at Frederick, Md. It may be some time yet before he joins his command in Mexico.—*N. O. Picayune* of May 16.

LATE FROM MEXICO.

The New Orleans Picayune furnishes intelligence from the city of Mexico to the 2d instant, which confirms the report that the Mexican Congress have obtained a quorum, but completely refutes the idle stories of the rejection of the Treaty of Peace and the overthrow of the Government that was disposed to ratify it. These stories, though especially stated in the Picayune to be sheer fabrications, have been spread all over the country by means of the Telegraph as matters of serious fact. Omitting altogether this part of the latest correspondence from Mexico, we extract therefrom such portions as appear to be of general interest.

CITY OF MEXICO, APRIL 30, 1848.

Your correspondent at Queretaro announces the important fact that a quorum is at Queretaro at last, and that Congress will shortly commence its deliberations. Why they should wait for the arrival of the Commissioners to commence their sittings is more than I know. Their first duty, as required by the constitution, is to elect a President, and this before entering into a consideration of the treaty. The Commissioners are waiting for their official that Congress is prepared to sit before they leave for Queretaro. As soon as that fact is announced to the Mexican Government they will start. They expect to receive a communication by the mail which arrives from Queretaro on the 2d of next month.

The advice from Queretaro shows—if betting can be taken as an index—a division among the members of Congress as to peace. Rubio—whom your correspondent says has made a bet of \$5,000 that there will be no peace—is one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Mexico. He is a Spaniard, and for the last ten or twelve years, by means of his wealth and his powers of intrigue, which are said to be great, has, whenever he pleased, controlled the Government that has existed in the country. He is, too, the staunch friend of Paredes, and when Paredes was President was his main stay. I have been surprised to learn that a man of Rubio's immense wealth, and with the stake he has in the country, was opposed to peace, as he must know that the nationality of the country is lost if the treaty now at Queretaro is not ratified. But he is the owner of some of the largest cotton factories in Mexico, and may desire the extension of the American Government over the whole country to give that security to industry which experience has proved never will exist under the Mexican Government. He is a large commercial speculator besides, and like many others of that class, may be opposed to peace at the present time lest the goods they have ordered from abroad may arrive after the treaty has been ratified and when the Mexican tariff will have come into operation again. This has been suggested to me as one reason for his opposition to peace by an old and intelligent resident of this city, who knows him well. From what I hear of the character and power of Rubio I attach great importance to the position he takes in regard to the treaty. The *Monitor Republicano*, published in this city, a strong advocate of peace, although treating the treaty to which I have referred as lost, at the same time tacitly confesses that the Government has reason to baffle of its enemies.

CITY OF MEXICO, MAY 2, 1848.

I have just received a letter from your correspondent at Queretaro, and not having time to give a translation before the mail closes, I can only furnish the substance. He says Gen. HERRERA has been nominated President, and the majority of the Deputies will vote for him. OTERO, who it has been reported for some time was opposed to peace, your correspondent says has changed his opinion, and will vote for the treaty. All this looks as if the peace party were in the ascendancy. Herrera is an old peace man, and Otero is a man of talent and influence.

Between twenty and thirty desertions took place from the army here on Saturday night. You will recollect that your correspondent at Queretaro some time since stated that a plan had been organized there to effect a desertion of several hundreds from the army in about this city, and that the parties who were to effect it were soon to leave. It has been discovered that the headquarters of the schemers are at Guadalupe. They give each man that deserts as high as a hundred dollars. Measures have been taken to trap the gentlemen. Several faithful men have been allowed to go to them as deserters, and these men are communicating information of their movements.

VENEZUELA.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

PUEBLO CABELLO, MAY 1, 1848.

It appears to be a *fixed fact* that General PAEZ has been driven by Monagas's troops across the frontier of New Granada, at least so assert the Government bulletins, and as we can obtain nothing to contradict this statement but mere rumors, presumed to be fabricated on the spot, we are prone to give some credit to it. Gen. Monagas has taken up his line of march upon Maracaibo at the head of four or five thousand men, according to the statement made to his party. If so, it would seem almost impossible for that place to resist any length of time. Maracaibo, say the Government party, is the only portion of the country in the hands of the opposite party, and cannot hold out long. It is, I can assure you, extremely painful to be obliged to give you accounts of the unsuccessful efforts of Gen. PAEZ *thus far* to reestablish the constitution. The party of Monagas, sustained by the Guzmanites, have a complete sway. The masses have been led to believe by Guzman and the mis-called Government that they have but one choice, either to sustain Gen. Monagas and be free, or become slaves for life under the rule of King PAEZ! Such are the doctrines continually kept before the people by the press in the pay of Monagas. You are perfectly aware of the gross ignorance of the majority of the people of this country, and that they are easily led away by demagogues.

IMPORTANT FROM HAYTI.

The schooner Isaac Franklin, arrived at Boston on Monday in thirteen days from Cape Haytien, brings some further and authentic particulars of the outbreak and civil war at Port au Prince, where terrible scenes have been enacted. It seems that a portion of the inhabitants (the mulattoes) remonstrated with President SOLOQUE against certain of his measures, when he arrested eighty of their number, and had them shot in cold blood. This atrocious act aroused the slumbering discontent of the friends of the murdered ones, who flew to arms. President SOLOQUE collected his troops and marched against them. He met them on the way; a skirmish ensued, and he was driven back to Port au Prince.

It is hard to trace the cause of all these troubles. It is stated that SOLOQUE has systematically excluded the yellows (who, though the minority, are the most intelligent and substantial portion of the inhabitants) from all participation in the offices of Government, and has replaced them by blacks, who are ignorant and incapable. It was probably upon the remonstrance of the yellows against this proscription that their massacre was decided upon.

At the late accounts all the influential men of the yellows in and about Port au Prince were either killed or in prison. Whether these troubles will spread to all parts of the island, and a bloody war of castes ensue, is of course all conjecture. The news from this quarter has always been wrapped in mystery, and the present is no exception to the rule.

Business had entirely ceased at Port au Prince. The letters from the island speak cautiously of the troubles there. In Cape Haytien and other parts on the north part of the island all was quiet.

THE REV. ANDREW GREEN, D.D. died at his residence in Philadelphia on Friday last, at the ripe age of 86 years. He was the only surviving member of the assembly which met to form the constitution of the Presbyterian church in this country, and was the oldest minister in the connection, it having been sixty one years since he was ordained. In early life he was a soldier of the Revolution, was a Chaplain to Congress when it sat in Philadelphia, and for a considerable time President of Princeton College.

A LETTER FROM HON. JOHN MCLEAN.

FROM THE INDIANA STATE JOURNAL OF MAY 17.

A few weeks ago we expressed the opinion that Judge MCLEAN, of Ohio, could unite more strength were he nominated by the Whig National Convention than any other individual named for the Presidency. In noticing that article the Xenia Torch-light replied in a spirit characterized by evidences of personal prejudice towards Judge MCLEAN not well calculated to produce that harmony of feeling without which the Whig party cannot hope to succeed. In the course of that reply it was intimated that the Judge would not submit to the decision of a National Convention, and that he did not agree with the Whig party in relation to measures of public policy. We knew this to be untrue, yet, that we might be enabled to pronounce it so on authority not to be disputed, we addressed a note to Judge MCLEAN and promptly received a reply. It will be seen that he occupies the true position, and one which will be satisfactory to the Whigs throughout the whole country.

INDIANAPOLIS, MAY 7, 1848.

DEAR SIR: Your name will be presented to the consideration of the Whig National Convention for its nomination as the Whig candidate for the Presidency. It has been recently intimated in some of the public papers that such mode of selecting a candidate does not meet your views, and that you do not fully concur in sentiment with the Whig party. If not inconsistent with the course which you have determined to pursue in relation to the Presidency, I would be pleased to have an answer for publication. Yours, respectfully,

JOHN D. DEFREES.

JOHN MCLEAN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

MY DEAR SIR: In answer to your favor received this day, I have to remark that the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency by a National Convention was adopted by the Whigs in 1840 as a substitute for the Congress caucus which, up to 1824, was the mode of designating the candidate.

A Convention nominated the Whig candidate in 1844, and on the 7th of June next it will perform the same office. Of course every person whose name is brought before a Whig Convention as a candidate for the Presidency, without any reservation on his part, is bound by its decision. I should consider it an imputation against my honor to suffer my name to go before the Convention as a Whig without restriction if I did not coincide cordially and fully with the professed principles of the Whig party. Very truly, yours,

JOHN MCLEAN.

JOHN D. DEFREES, Esq., Indianapolis, Ind.

INDIAN WAR IN OREGON.

Four Battles—The Whites Victorious—Massacre of Missionaries.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.]
LOUISVILLE, MAY 21, 1848.

By the arrival of Major MEKE, from the West, we have late and most important news from Oregon, where all is confusion and bloodshed between the Whites and Indians. Four powerful tribes have united, and commenced a deadly war. Four battles took place in January, in three of which the Whites were successful in beating their enemy. Five hundred Whites fought a body of two thousand Indians a whole day, when the Indians retreated, after wounding a great number of Whites.

On the 29th of November a most horrid and brutal massacre was committed by the Cayuse Indians, at the Presbyterian Mission, at the Wallah-Wallah Valley. Dr. WHITE, his man and wife, with eighteen others, were killed, and sixty or seventy taken prisoners. The houses of the Missionaries and their neighbors were burnt to the ground. The unfortunate prisoners were subsequently ransomed, through the agency of PETER SKEN OGDEN, chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company.

Major MEKE pushed up the river yesterday, on his way to Washington, with despatches for the Government, asking for immediate aid on the part of the Oregon settlers.

FROM THE BRAZILIAN COAST.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

U. S. FRIGATE BRANDVINE.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 6, 1848.

We have just arrived here from Montevideo after a tiresome passage of twelve days, during which time we experienced much heavy weather, and are much pleased to find ourselves again in the placid waters of this harbor.

From the 18th to the 21st March the inhabitants of MONTVIDEO were much alarmed for their personal safety, and it would seem not without reason. All the country surrounding is still held by OTERO, who can march into the town whenever he thinks proper; for he certainly seems waiting his own inclination rather than for opportunity. They (the Montevideans) are obliged to import their beef from Rio Grande; and ROSAS, having refused all commercial intercourse, (which he allowed until he had shipped all the superfluous produce of Buenos Ayres,) has greatly reduced the revenue of Montevideo; owing to which and other causes they found themselves unable to pay their troops, or rather their army, for such is the title with which they dignify a mercenary band, (composed, if we may judge from appearances, of the cast-off of all nations.) But they were clamorous for pay and for food, and at the time I speak of were beginning to parade the streets in small parties, stopping any one whose appearance promised to pay them for the trouble, and occasionally dropping into a gentleman's residence, and politely informing him that his life was sold, and naming the amount. On the night of the 17th the Editor of "El Comercio" was cruelly murdered within a few steps of his door. He bore an excellent character, was a man of high standing and much popularity.

On the 19th arrived a Commissioner from England, and on the 20th one on the part of the French. Their arrival occasioned much anxiety in the town and many rumors, though the prevalent opinion was that they would effect little. They had declined an invitation to land, fearing that by doing so they might offend the other party.

Up to the time of our leaving, the only move they made was to send a steamer to Buenos Ayres and an officer to OTERO, it was thought with despatches; the former with duplicate to ROSAS, and also an order to raise the French blockade.

We have left at Montevideo the *Perry* to look out for our interests.

RAILWAY SPEED.—A correspondent of the London Times writes that on Saturday, March 24th, the locomotive Lightning, an eight wheel engine, with driving wheels eight feet in diameter, left Paddington at fifty-four minutes and six seconds past 10 o'clock, and came to a dead stop at Didcot station at forty-five minutes forty-four seconds after 11 o'clock, performing the 53 miles, therefore, in fifty-one minutes thirty-eight seconds—that is, from a state of rest to a state of rest. The writer rode the whole of the distance on the engine, which was perfectly steady at the highest velocity, viz. between 75 and 76 miles per hour.

This is only one instance among many of the superiority of the large engines over the small ones which our railroads continue to use, thereby occasioning a great loss of time to the public. Take for instance the Eastern Railway, where the passengers are two hours (and often more) going from Boston to Newburyport, a distance much under forty miles; and add together the hour or at least half hour lost by each passenger.

It will be found that the daily aggregate is too large to be thus unprofitably consumed, because our engines are discredibly behind what they should be.—*Boston Atlas*.

DR. HENRY D. MARBLE, long a successful practicing physician in the town of Leesburg, Virginia, and one of its most respectable and valued citizens, came to a sudden death, on the evening of the 15th instant, by being thrown from his horse and dragged a short distance in consequence of one of his feet hanging in the stirrup.

THE PROPOSED ASTRONOMICAL EXPEDITION.

Since our publication of the Report of a Committee of the House of Representatives respecting the proposed Astronomical Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere, we have observed, in papers from every part of the country, notices of the project. The following, from among them, are worthy of being transferred to our columns:

FROM THE CINCINNATI GAZETTE.

ASTRONOMICAL ENTERPRISE IN THE UNITED STATES.—Our attention has been lately awakened to this subject by a recent report of the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives, which was published in the National Intelligencer of April 14th, and which we republish with the editorial remarks by which it is there introduced. It gives us the highest gratification to find that science is at last becoming an object of national concern in this republic.

To Lieut. GILLES, United States Navy, we believe, belongs the merit of having caused the Observatory to be established at Washington, and should his new enterprise be crowned with success by a more accurate determination of the sun's parallax—the sole basis for measuring the celestial spaces—he will lay his country under still higher obligations. It seems to us that there is very substantial ground for congratulation in the progress which Astronomy has recently made among us. Not only have we well-furnished Observatories in Washington, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Cambridge—more in number, we believe, than any other nation in Europe, and all within the last few years—but others are promised in New York and elsewhere; and what is better still, we have Astronomers as meritorious, if not as celebrated, as any other. As we understand the matter, all that has been certainly determined with regard to the new planet Neptune, and its effect upon the perturbations of Uranus, of which the theory is now nearly complete—is the work of two American Astronomers, Walker and Peirce, who together have defined the track of Neptune for the last fifty years within less than a second of space, and thereby demonstrated that Neptune is the planet mathematically predicted by Leverrier or Adams. Then, too, we have Mitchell and Leomin and Bond and Kent, all energetically pushing forward the science into new fields of observation.

But our national pride has carried us further than we intended. We invite the attention of our readers to the extract from the National Intelligencer.

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.—We have examined with pleasure the report of a committee of the House of Representatives respecting the proposed Astronomical Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere. Our present knowledge of the dimensions of the solar system rests entirely upon the parallax of Mars, which was deduced from the transit of Venus in 1761 and 1789. These observations were made with great care, and the results derived from them are doubtless deserving of great confidence; but the observations were made almost a century ago, when astronomical instruments were comparatively rude. Another opportunity to repeat the same kind of observations will not occur before the year 1874, and that transit will not be visible in the United States. Is our present knowledge of the dimensions of our system so complete as to leave nothing further to be desired? Professor EICKE thinks that the error of his determination of the sun's parallax does not exceed the twentieth part of a second. There are able astronomers who do not feel equal confidence in his results, and we think it highly desirable that they should be "confirmed by some independent method." Such a method is to be found in simultaneous observations of Venus or Mars at two stations as remote as possible from each other. It is to test this method that it is proposed to send an expedition to some point of Chili, to make observations upon these planets in concert with observations made in the United States. This method was first proposed and urged by an eminent mathematician of Europe. The plan has received the sanction of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Sciences, and is being vigorously carried out. It is in this country, whose testimony is appended to the report of the committee of Congress. We sincerely hope that no obstacle may be interposed to carrying this plan into full execution, the results of which cannot fail to be valuable to the cause of science, as well as creditable to the country.

FROM THE NEW YORK STAR.

EXPLORING THE DEAD SEA.—We have already noticed the arrival at Constantinople of the expedition to the Dead Sea, and the Sultan, when informed of the project, could not but be struck by its object, but expressed an entire willingness to afford the necessary every facility in the prosecution of it. We do not, however, anticipate any very important results from the expedition. The Lake Asphaltites or Dead Sea has evidently been formed from some subterranean fires, the whole surrounding country being full of bitumen, and probably the domes which are erected on this formation of Naphtha, on taking fire, the whole extent was formed into a lake, the waters of which are exceedingly heavy and bitter. The depth of the water will be ascertained, and its specific gravity, and probably some interesting reminiscences; but here it will end. The lake was always in a desolate barren position, near which nothing could flourish. We should think that dragging the Tiber would be a much more profitable operation, if we are to believe what history tells us, that some of the Roman Emperors, after giving a splendid party, ordered the golden dishes and pitchers to be thrown into the Tiber, and the table replenished with fresh plates. A more interesting memorial has been recently presented to Congress, and received with favor. It is proposed to set on foot an expedition to the most southern available position on the Western Coast of Africa, for the purpose of making observations of the planet Venus, with a view to a more accurate determination of the solar parallax, which involves not only the distance of our own planet from the sun, but the dimensions of the orbits of all the bodies of our solar system. The utility is to present data for a new and more accurate determination of the longitude. The proposed station in Chili will afford an ample base of six thousand miles. The committee recommended an increase of the appropriation of five thousand dollars.

MAJOR GENERAL SCOTT.

FROM THE LETTERS OF "MUSTANG."

MEXICO, APRIL 21.

He is gone, and he left the army as no man ever left it before; not with the formal parade and military display, with the thunder-toned artillery announcing his departure, and the long array of bright muskets saluting him as he passed; but with the unostentatious sympathy and warm regards of brave and honest men, wishing him long life and happiness, praying most fervently that the remainder of his life may be as calm and cloudless as the past has been bright, chequered, and glorious. Let us look back to the time he first entered this country, and follow him through the trying and exciting scenes. The strong Castle of San Juan de Ulua, supported by the well fortified city of Vera Cruz, fell at his command, after a desperate resistance; the heights of Cerro Gordo yielded to his science, supported by the bravery and confidence of his troops; then follow him to this valley, and view him descending the mountain from Rio Frio, at the head of his invincible legions, with all eyes and ears turned towards him with the most implicit confidence and firm reliance, each and all believing that as long as Winfield Scott lived there was "no such word as fail;" and then look back and recall to your recollection the sanguine reliance with which his gallant army followed him through the perilous times and bloody battles, until he entered the Grand Plaza of the ancient Aztecs, amidst the victorious shouts of the most noble army the world has ever known. But all this time, while he has been overthrowing the enemies of his country in front, exalting our national character, redressing our national injuries, and adorning our national history, his "enemies in the rear" have been working to tarnish his fair fame and destroy his just claims to the gratitude and admiration of his countrymen. In the very face of the enemy he had routed and defeated, and in the capital he has conquered, he has been placed in the humiliating attitude of one scrambling for justice with his inferiors—inferiors in rank, in talent, and in the high traits of character and education which make the great and successful warrior, the statesman, and the logician. And now, this day he leaves the capital of the enemies of his country, not with his victorious divisions following him to his native land, exulting in his unparalleled triumphs,